

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

----- 018998

R 240816Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2090

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, TH

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF SOUTH THAILAND DISTURBANCES

1. MALAYSIAN PRESS HAS BEEN SLOW TO PICK UP REPORTS OF MURDERS OF THAI MUSLIMS AND SUBSEQUENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN PATTANI. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, FIRST REPORT WAS NOT PUBLISHED UNTIL DECEMBER 18, AND THAT ONLY IN MALAY-LANGUAGE PRESS. MALAY PRESS TREATMENT HAS ALL BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD AND NON-POLEMIC, ALTHOUGH MILDLY SYMPATHETIC TO CAUSE OF THAI MUSLIMS. FIRST ENGLISH-LANGUAGE COVERAGE ONLY APPEARED TODAY, IN ARTICLE WHICH OUTLINED FOR FIRST TIME TUMULTUOUS EVENTS ON MALAYSIA'S BORDER WHICH BEGAN NOVEMBER 29. CHINESE PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS DECEMBER 23 AND 24. NEITHER ENGLISH NOR CHINESE PRESS HAS YET COMMENTED EDITORIALY.

2. EMBASSY VIEWS RELATIVELY LOW KEY TREATMENT SO FAR OF EVENTS OF DIRECT IMPORTANCE TO MALAYSIA AS ATTEMPT BY GOM THROUGH HEAVILY INFLUENCED PRESS TO AVOID DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER ISSUE SENSITIVE TO THAI-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS.

4. METAPHYSICAL NOTE: KUKRIT'S FAILURE TO MEET DEMONSTRATORS IN PATTANI, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MALAYSIAN REPORTER WHO RETURNED

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DEC 23 FROM BANGKOK, IS DUE TO ASTROLOGER'S RECOMMENDATION NOT

TO GO SOUTH, BUT TO TRAVEL NORTH AND REST FOR A FEW DAYS.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA07498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750446-1085
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751212/aaaaakau.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF SOUTH THAILAND DISTURBANCES
TAGS: PFOR, MY, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006